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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 IO-03 ADP-00 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 /054 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
7/2/73 EXT 20448
APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS
S/PRS:CBRAY (INFO)
IO/P:FBLACHLY
AF/P:BRUSSELL
NEA/EGY:GNANDERSON
EUR/P:ESAVAGE
H:KFOLGER (INFO)
---------- 108898
R 022000Z JUL 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 2, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON COLONEL ALON AND THE INVESTIGATION OF HIS DEATH?

A. WELL, I KFULL FBI PARTICIPATION, BUT THAT IS THE EXTENT OF IT AT THE PRESENT TIME. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONCLUSIONS OR RESULTS DRAWN FROM THAT INVESTIGATION TO MY KNOWLEDGE AT THIS TIME.

Q. WHAT ROLE IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT PLAYING IN ALL THIS?

A. I WILL REFER TO JUST A COUPLE OF THINGS IN THAT RESPECT. ONE IS, AS YOU KNOW, THE SECRETARY SENT A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN YESTERDAY. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ISRAELI EMBASSY HERE, IN THE COURSE OF YESTERDAY'S EVENTS, TO ASSURE THAT TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SECURITY FOR THEM.

Q. WHAT KIND OF SECURITY WAS THAT, AGAIN?

A. APPROPRIATE SECURITY. IT IS SECURITY IN LINE WITH OUR CAPABILITIES. YOU WILL ALSO RECALL THAT THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY INDICATED THAT HE WAS URGING THE EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE TO STEP UP THEIR ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS.

Q. IS THE DEPARTMENT INVOLVED IN A PRACTICAL WAY IN, FOR EXAMPLE, SEEING TO IT THAT THE EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE DOES STEP IT UP, AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, "STEP IT UNCLASSIFIED

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UP"? TWENTY MORE AGENTS, FIFTY MORE AGENTS, A HUNDRED MORE AGENTS?

A. WELL, I CAN'T TALK IN SPECIFICS AT THIS TIME, BUT, YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE DO HAVE A COMMITTEE, CABINET COMMITTEE, ON THIS PARTICULAR SUBJECT. THE CABINET COMMITTEE DOES INCLUDE A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM DIFFERENT AGENCIES. IT IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS BEEN ARMIN MEYER, SO YOU CAN ASSUME THAT THAT GROUP IS FULLY INVOLVED IN THIS TYPE OF AFFAIR.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN AN ACTUAL INCREASE IN SECURITY?

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A. IN TERMS OF NUMBERS OF POLICE OFFICERS, AGENTS, I DON'T THINK THAT YOU COULD SAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS SINCE YESTERDAY. REALLY WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT IS QUESTIONS OF COORDINATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT POLICE AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE LOCAL POLICE AGENCIES, AND THE EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE. AND YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT DEPLOYING AND USING THESE AGENCIES IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER THAT PEOPLE CAN MANAGE AND CAN DETERMINE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

Q. IS THIS CABINET COMMITTEE PLANNING TO HAVE A FULL-DRESS DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM (A), AND (B), WHEN YOU SAY "IN LINE WITH OUR CAPABILITIES", ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT YOU CANNOT PROVIDE PROTECTION TO ISRAELIS OR OTHER DIPLOMATS IN THEIR HOMES?

A. IT IS, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. I HAVE ONE FIGURE HERE WHICH I WILL THROW OUT TO YOU TO GIVE YOU A SENSE OF THE DIMENSION OF THE PROBLEM, AND THAT IS I AM INFORMED THAT THERE ARE 137,000 FOREIGN OFFICIALS IN THIS COUNTRY, INCLUDING THEIR DEPENDENTS, AND, AGAIN AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, IT IS JUST NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE BODYGUARDS AND CONTINUOUS SECURITY ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY "DEPLOYING IN THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY", YOU MEAN TO SAY MORE MEN HAVE NOW BEEN ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS?
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A. WELL, I WOULD SAY, AT THIS POINT IN TIME, YES, THAT IS CORRECT. WE HAVE INCREASED OUR PROTECTION TO THE ISRAELIS.

Q. WAIT A MINUTE. I DON'T UNDERSTAND. JUST A MOMENT AGO, YOU SAID "A NUMBER OF AGENTS, NO." ARE WE TALKING NOW SIMPLY ABOUT THE COORDINATION OF VARIOUS POLICE FUNCTIONS OR THE NUMBERS?

A. WELL, YOU HAVE A FINITE NUMBER OF POLICE. WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT IS WITHIN THAT FINITE NUMBER, HOW DO YOU ALLOCATE THEM. AND IN TERMS OF THE ALLOCATION OF THOSE, YOU KNOW, YOUR AVAILABLE MANPOWER, WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION THAT DEVELOPED AND THE TRAGIC MURDER, PROTECTION FOR THE ISRAELI EMBASSY HAS BEEN STEPPED UP.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER ANY INDIVIDUALS ARE BEING QUES-TIONED WHO WOULD HAVE CONNECTIONS WITH PALESTINIAN OR ARAB TERRORIST GROUPS?

A. I CAN'T GO INTO THE DETAILS OF HOW THE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED.

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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION BEYOND YOUR FIRST COMMENT THAT THIS IS A POLITICAL MURDER?

A. YOU KNOW, MY FIRST COMMENT IS THE EXTENT OF MY JUDGMENT, OUR JUDGMENT, AT THIS TIME, WHICH IS THAT THE INVESTIGATION IS PROCEEDING AND NO CONCLUSIONS AT THIS TIME CAN BE DRAWN.

Q. HAS THE ARMIN MEYER COMMITTEE MET, OR DOES IT PLAN TO MEET TO DISCUSS WHAT APPEARS TO BE A NEW SITUATION?

A. IN A FORMAL SENSE, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE MET, BUT, ON A PRACTICAL LEVEL, YOU CAN ASSUME THAT INTERESTED MEMBERS WERE IN TOUCH YESTERDAY ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM.

Q. IS THE DEPARTMENT PLANNING TO CALL IN ANY ARAB OR
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OTHER DIPLOMATS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT EVENT?

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS ALONG THAT LINE AT THIS TIME.

Q. THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS, HAVE ANY DIPLOMATS CALLED FOR EXTRA PROTECTION AS A RESULT OF THIS MURDER?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, BUT IN FAIRNESS I WOULD ALSO HAVE TO SAY THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM TIME TO TIME REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION.

Q. COULD YOU, IN VIEW OF YOUR ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, ASK WHETHER ANY SUCH REQUEST HAS COME IN IN THE PAST 24 OR SO HOURS?

A. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION, YES. I MIGHT NOT WANT TO, FOR REASONS OF SECURITY, SPECIFY IF THAT, IN FACT, HAS BEEN DONE. BUT I'LL BE GLAD TO CHECK IT FOR YOU. RUSH

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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CAIRO
DHAHRAN
JERUSALEM
JIDDA

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KHARTOUM
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MANAMA
TEHRAN
TEL AVIV
ALGIERS
TRIPOLI
TUNIS
RABAT
LONDON
PARIS
MOSCOW
ROME
USUN NY
NATO
NICOSIA
BAGHDAD BY POUCH
SANAA BY POUCH
Type: TE
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